

# The Futch Family

**Grade Level:** 6,7,8

**Subject Area:** Social Studies, Language Arts, Math

## General Overview

Letter from John Futch, Co. K, 3<sup>rd</sup> North Carolina Troops, to his wife Martha Ramsey Futch and a letter from Catherine Ramsey to Futch, her son-in-law. John Futch enlisted February 1, 1862 in New Hanover County and was reported absent without leave from August 11-31, 1863. He was shot for desertion on September 5, 1863. John and Martha Futch were married February 11, 1862 in New Hanover County where they lived with their families in the Holly Shelter area.

NOTE: The teacher may want to withhold the information about Futch's desertion and shooting until late in the lesson.

## Activity 1 : Mini Webquest

**Time Required:** 45 minutes (*teacher's discretion*)

**Materials:** Internet access  
Original Futch Letters and Supplementary images  
**The Futch Family Worksheet (pdf)**

<b>State Standards:</b>	<b>Grade 6</b>	Language Arts	Goals 1.02, 1.04, 2.01, 6.02
	<b>Grade 7</b>	Language Arts	Goals 1.02, 1.04, 2.01, 6.02
	<b>Grade 8</b>	Language Arts	Goals 1.02, 1.04, 2.01, 6.02
		Social Studies	Goals 4.03, 4.04

## Preparation

Students should study the materials provided, including the Futch Family's short bio and original Civil War letters. Encourage students to search through other documents on the Futch Family within the website.

## Instructions

Students should read the questions pertaining to the Futches and follow the links within and outside of the website to find the answers to these questions. They should then record the answers to the questions on the worksheet provided.

*The Futch Family lived in New Hanover County, North Carolina, around the Holly Shelter area during the time of the Civil War (1861-1865). Like many families during that time, The Futches had a male family member enlisted in the Armed Forces. John Futch, Co. K, 3<sup>rd</sup> North Carolina Troops often wrote letters to his wife, Martha Ramsey Futch and the rest of his family while he was at war. John Futch enlisted February 1, 1862 in New Hanover County and was reported absent without leave from August 11-31, 1863. It was because of this "absence without leave" that he was shot for desertion on September 5, 1863. By reading original letters like the ones sent between the Futch Family, we can better understand that period in history from a first hand account.*

Read the original letter sent from John to Martha Futch.

Read the original letter sent from Catherine Ramsey to John.

1. What do you learn about Mrs. Ramsey from her letter?
2. What do you learn about John Futch from Mrs. Ramsey's letter? From his letter?
3. What do we learn about the home front during the Civil War?

Read this article on civil war mail from the National Postal Museum.

4. How did letters get "mailed" during the war?

Use Google Maps to search for Holly Shelter, NC to describe its location.

5. Where is Holly Shelter?

## Activity 2

**Time Required:** 1 class period (*teacher's discretion*)

**Materials:** Original Futch Letters  
Internet access

<b>State Standards:</b>	<b>Grade 6</b>	Language Arts	<i>Goals 1.02, 1.03, 2.01</i>
	<b>Grade 7</b>	Language Arts	<i>Goals 1.02, 1.03, 2.01</i>
	<b>Grade 8</b>	Language Arts	<i>Goals 1.02, 1.03, 2.01</i>
		Social Studies	<i>Goals 4.03, 4.04, 9.01</i>

### Preparation

Students should visit other websites and bring in newspapers or other periodicals that discuss our nation and state's involvement in the Middle Eastern region. They might gather in groups to discuss what they've read, or do this as individuals and share with the class.

### Instructions

Using what is known about Civil War families and American families currently involved in military efforts, discuss similarities and contrasts between how military families are dealing with their problems during the present Iraqi War, and how they dealt with their problems during the Civil War.

## Activity 3

<b>Time Required:</b>	45 minutes ( <i>teacher's discretion</i> )
<b>Materials:</b>	Current grocery store circular <i>Several period newspapers (optional)</i> <b><u>Transcript of Wilmington Journal (pdf)</u></b> <b><u>"Comparing Prices" worksheet (pdf)</u></b>

<b>State Standards:</b>	<b>Grade 6</b>	Language Arts	<i>Goals 2.01</i>
	<b>Grade 7</b>	Language Arts	<i>Goals 2.01</i>
		Math	<i>Goals 4.01, 4.05</i>
	<b>Grade 8</b>	Language Arts	<i>Goals 2.01</i>
		Social Studies	<i>Goals 4.03</i>
		Math	<i>Goals 4.01</i>

### Preparation

Search period newspapers (or simply use the list given from The Wilmington Journal) and current grocery store circulars to compare market prices in the mid 1800s to those of today.

### Instructions

Use the list of prices from the 1800s to compare market prices to the ones you see in the grocery store circular from present times. Complete the comparing prices worksheet.

## Extension

1. Investigate the movements of John Futch's regiment (3<sup>rd</sup> NCT). In what battles did they fight? Are statistics available about desertions?

### Sources

PC 507 Futch Letters, North Carolina State Archives